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PATENT APPLICATION
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. FERT-P003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: LAURENT, Pierre L.	Examiner: BAIRD, Edward J.
Application No. 10/810,061	Group No. 3695
Filed: 3/25/2004	Confirmation No. 7853
Title: COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED TRADING IN FREIGHT DERIVATIVES AND TECHNIQUES THEREFOR	

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims 1 and 16 are novel, nonobvious, and patentable over the cited arts, alone or in combination. The cited arts mentioned by Examiner include at least Nadan (US 2005/0021346), Blalock (US 2001/0047284), Bjerre (US 2002/0123911), Kwan (US 6,990,467), Williams et al. (US 2002/0032573), Bjerre (US 2002/0178023), Bjerre et al. (US 2005/0091089), Bjerre et al. (US 2005/0091091), Kintis (WO 01/18671), Bjerre et al. (US 2005/0091090), Scheer (US 2002/0138358), Nafeh et al. (US 2002/0069155), Lancaster (US 2002/0133456), Haigh ("Hedging Foreign Currency, Freight, and Commodity Futures Portfolios—A note", The Journal of Futures Markets, Hoboken: Dec 2002, Vol. 22, Iss. 12; pg. 1205), Batchelor ("Transport Futures to be Traded on the Internet"; London edition, Financial Times, London, UK: Sep 11, 1997, pg. 30), Tower ("Mega-ship Drive Freight's Future"; 5 edition, Journal of commerce, New York, Oct 22, 1998, pg. 1.B), Wilson ("Air Freight: Poised for Expansion"; Transportation and Distribution, Cleveland, Aug 1997, Vol. 38, Iss. 8; pg. 43, 5 pages), Foster ("Air Freight Weathers the Storm"; Logistics Management and Distribution Report, Radnor, may 1999, Vol. 38, Iss. 5, pg 55), Bains et al. (US 6,625,584), and Lerner (US 2002/0120555).

Furthermore, the dependent claims 2-15 and 17-21 that depend from at least one of the independent claims 1 and 16 are also novel, nonobvious, and patentable not only due to their recitation of independently patentable features but also due to their dependence from the allowed independent claims 1 and 16.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for a thorough examination and the allowance of claims 1-21.

If any petition is required to facilitate the entry of this communication, please consider this communication a petition therefore as well. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. FFRT-P003).

Respectfully submitted,

/Joseph A. Nguyen/

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